

As you know, the work of the City in the area of cleanliness was recognized by outside agencies and organizations as an example of quality management as well as for its positive impact in our community. In 2007, the Public Area Cleanliness Program, exemplified by our "Clean Team," became the Governor's Florida Sterling Council 2007 Quality Team Showcase State Champion. This award specifically recognizes teams that demonstrate the principles and techniques of improving quality through employee participation. In addition, our City's Public Area Cleanliness Program was recognized as the project that imparted the greatest community impact.

As the 2007 Sterling Quality Team Showcase winner, our team represented the state of Florida in the American Society for Quality's International Team Showcase at their World Conference on Quality and Improvement, which took place in Houston, Texas on May 5-7, 2008. With thirty-one (31) teams selected to compete, the City's "Clean Team" was only one of twenty-six (26) teams that actually competed, and was the only public sector organization amongst giants of manufacturing and the private sector, such as Boeing, Healthways, and Bayer MaterialScience LLC. I am proud that in our first experience competing at the state and international level on quality management, the scoring report showed that our City was merely 0.6 points behind the bronze winning team, and was only one of ten teams to score above 100 points.

Of even more significance, for a first year participant in a highly technical competition, the City of Miami Beach was able to show that quality of life issues can be just as complex, if not more difficult, to address and tackle as those of private industry. Even more meaningful in light of our efforts to foster team work and a "One Team One City" philosophy, the Clean Team was awarded the Attendee Choice Award for Team Spirit, an award defined by exuberant demonstration of zest, tempo and camaraderie.

The value and effectiveness of our strategic planning process was also recognized in December 2007 by the American Planning Association (APA) Gold Coast Section, as they selected our City's Strategic Planning Process to receive the Award for Excellence for an Outstanding Strategic Planning Project or Study.

The Parks & Recreation Department was recently visited by the Accreditation Team from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The team's visit, as part of the 5 year re-accreditation process, was to reevaluate and assure that the Department continues to be in compliance with over 150 standards deemed essential to the quality of services, the professionalism of its operations and for the delivery of best practices. I am pleased to announce that the Department was not only recommended by the visitation team for Re-Accreditation, but the Department scored 100% in meeting every single standard, a rarity for the entire industry. The re-accreditation process will be finalized in October at the (NRPA) National Recreation and Parks Association's conference in Baltimore.

In addition, The City of Miami Beach Parks & Recreation Department was awarded the 2008 Agency Excellence Award by the Florida Recreation and Parks Association (FRPA) at its Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. The Florida Recreation & Park Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and advocacy of the Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services profession. The Agency Excellence Award is given to parks and recreation agencies that exemplify ideal departmental initiatives, including administration, master planning, diverse programming, community partnerships and promotion of the department.

Last year, in our efforts to continue mailing the award-winning MB magazine directly to all City residents, we were able to reduce the distribution and production costs of the publication while increasing the number of pages, while securing additional advertisers to offset our production costs. I am proud to announce that MB is again a finalist for a national 3CMA (City-County Communications and Marketing Association) Savvy Award in the magazine category.

We continue to produce several in-house television programs on Miami Beach (MBTV) Channel 77 that have also been recognized nationally. MBTV77 received four national awards for Excellence in Government Television Programming. The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) announced the awards during its national conference in Portland, Oregon on October 5, 2007. NATOA is a national association that represents the communications needs and interests of local governments. They reported receiving more than 1,200 entries from 180 agencies in 31 states this year—the greatest number of entries in the 22-year history of the competition. Specifically MBTV 77 was awarded the following:

- Third place in the overall “Excellence in Government” programming category;
- “CityVision,” MBTV’s monthly news magazine program, received a second place award in the Magazine Format Series category;
- “Preserving Our City’s History,” a CityVision story on the City Clerk Office’s initiative to gather, organize and preserve the written and photographic history of Miami Beach won third place in the Community Awareness category;
- “Cheat the Reaper: Don’t Drink and Drive,” a Miami Beach Fire Department anti-drinking and driving program, won an honorable mention in the Public Safety category.

Our Parks and Recreation Department continues producing their Recreation Review, which was recognized this year by the Florida Recreation and Parks Association with the 2007 Media Excellence Award. Recreation Review is also a finalist for a 3CMA Savvy Award in the Recreation Catalog category this year. The winner will be announced at the award ceremony in October 2008.

- City of Miami Beach received the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) Class 1 Rating— one of nine communities in the United States with an accredited Fire Department that has received a Class 1 rating from ISO